

To: Blackburn, Elizabeth[Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
From: Mattas-Curry, Lahne
Sent: Thur 1/16/2014 8:07:07 PM
Subject: FW: On second thought, pregnant women shouldn't drink contaminated West Virginia water, CDC says

Well.....she has a point. J

From: Jones, Marjorie
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 3:06 PM
To: McDonald, Michael
Cc: Mattas-Curry, Lahne
Subject: On second thought, pregnant women shouldn't drink contaminated West Virginia water, CDC says

This is why drinking water communications are a nightmare. The public are annoying in that they just want a 'yes/no, safe/not safe' answer, and they don't want to think....but on the other side, these kinds of seemingly contradictory notes are why they just throw up their hands and buy bottled water. Or give up.

So--- West Virginians were told to go ahead and drink their water. Except then the CDC back pedaled and said that maybe pregnant women shouldn't. (which should beg the question about whether others have sensitivities who shouldn't either). But if you read the notice, pulled in below, it says that pregnant women maybe shouldn't, but then at the end says, 'but we really don't expect adverse effects below 1....'

So which is it? If we don't know, we should just say we don't know – and accept the consequences that people aren't going to want to drink it if we don't know. But we don't want to say that.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/16/1270072/-Okay-to-drink-West-Virginia-water-If-you-re-pregnant-maybe-not-the-federal-CDC-advises-belatedly?detail=facebook>

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WATER ADVISORY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health advises, after consultation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this evening, that the CDC recommends—out of an abundance of caution—that pregnant women drink bottled water until there are no longer detectable levels of MCHM in the water distribution system. However, the CDC re-affirmed previous advice that it does not anticipate any adverse health effects from levels less than 1 ppm.

Guidance from the CDC is attached.

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